



Memorandum

TO: RULES AND OPEN
GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

FROM: Councilmember Kansen Chu
Councilmember Nora Campos
Councilmember Forrest Williams
Councilmember Sam Liccardo

SUBJECT: AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL
DEFIBRILLATORS

DATE: February 14, 2008

APPROVED:

Kansen Chu *Forrest Williams*
Nora Campos
Sam Liccardo *PF*

DATE:

02/14/08

RECOMMENDATION

Direct the City Manager and City Attorney to conduct a stakeholder outreach process to determine the feasibility of requiring the placement of automatic external defibrillators (hereinafter AED) in hotels, motels, and senior apartment communities. Further, the City Attorney should research existing liability relief (i.e. employers, property owners, hotel operators) granted by the State Legislature and determine if any additional relief is necessary.

BACKGROUND

Each year, sudden cardiac arrest (hereinafter SCA) claims the lives of 325,000 people in the United States. At approximately 1,000 lives a day, SCA is the leading cause of death in this country¹. SCA is different from a heart attack in that SCA is akin to "having your internal light switch shut off" and often results in less than a 5% survival rate if not treated within 10 minutes.

The good news is that each year, an estimated 40,000 lives can be saved in the United States if there is broad access to AEDs. In July 2007, all health clubs and health studios in California were required to have an AED program in place as required in the California Health and Safety Code². However, there are more publicly accessible places, such as hotels, that lack this device. In fiscal year 2005-2006, the San Jose Fire Department reported 771 SCA incidents. The cost of AEDs has dropped dramatically, averaging \$2,300 per unit.

In September 2007, the Public Safety, Finance, Strategic Support Committee accepted the Heart Safe City Proposal by Chief Von Raesfeld, who is expected to report back in April 2008. We believe this proposed AED ordinance should move forward in conjunction with the Heart Safe City proposal. Combined, they will help San Jose earn the title of Heart Safe City. We are asking for your support on this life saving initiative. By doing so, we will give hundreds of people a second chance at life.

¹ Sudden Cardiac Arrest Association

² California Health and Safety Code § 104113